

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A method of abandoning a well,
2 said well comprising at least two concentric conduits defining a
3 main bore and at least one annular chamber therebetween, the method
4 comprising the steps of:

5 lowering a pump into the well;

6 forming providing a perforation in one or more of the
7 conduits,

8 ~~withdrawing~~ pumping out the fluid by means of the pump
9 from the annular chamber and/or main bore to create a fluid-free
10 void, and

11 inserting sealing material in the annular chamber and/or
12 main bore to seal it/them.

13 2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein
14 sealing material is inserted into the bore of the innermost conduit
15 to seal it.

1 3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1
2 wherein a tube is ~~introduced~~ connected to the pump and the fluid is
3 pumped to the surface through the tube.

1 4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1
2 wherein the fluid is ~~pumped~~ drawn downward into the well by the
3 pump.

1 5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1
2 wherein the sealing material is inserted in the annular chamber
3 before the fluid from the annular chamber is pumped out.

1 6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1
2 wherein perforations are formed in at least one conduit and the
3 annular chamber or chambers are sealed at one level in the well,
4 and then further perforations are formed in a greater number of
5 conduits at a second higher level in the well.

1 7. (original) A method according to claim 6 wherein
2 after forming the further perforations in the greater number of
3 conduits at the second higher level, the annular chambers between
4 these conduits are sealed.

1 8. (currently amended) An apparatus for abandoning a
2 well having at least two concentric conduits defining at least one
3 annular chamber there between, the apparatus including a pump down
4 in the well, a cable for lowering the pump into the well, and a
5 perforation forming device.

1 9. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim
2 8, further comprising wherein there is also provided
3 a valve unit capable of securing itself in an innermost
4 conduit and including a check valve to permit the one-way flow of
5 fluids.

1 10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to
2 claim 8 wherein the pump and the valve unit are separable.

1 11. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim
2 8, further comprising wherein there is provided
3 a cable on which the pump may be lowered into the well.

1 12. (original) An apparatus according to claim 8
2 wherein the perforation forming device is incorporated into the
3 pump.

1 13. (previously presented) An apparatus according to
2 claim 8 wherein the perforation forming device is incorporated into
3 the valve unit.

1 14. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim
2 [[8]] 11 wherein the cable includes a through bore.

15. (canceled)

1 16. (new) A method of abandoning a well having an inner
2 conduit defining a main-bore space and an outer conduit
3 concentrically surrounding the inner conduit and defining therewith
4 an annular space, the method comprising the steps of:

5 lowering a pump into one of the spaces;

6 forming a perforation in the inner conduit between the
7 spaces;

8 withdrawing fluid by means of the pump from the other of
9 the spaces through the perforation to create in the other space a
10 fluid-free void; and

11 inserting sealing material in the other space to seal and
12 fill it.